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LETTER DATED 18 JUNE 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I am pleased to transmit herewith the Bahir Dar Declaration and Agreement on the Humanitarian Aspect of the Problem in Somalia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mulugeta ETEFFA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Bahir Dar Declaration of the All-Party Meeting on Somalia

The All-Party Meeting on Somalia convened by the Standing Committee of the Horn of Africa from 31 May to 3 June 1992 at Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, dealt with the human and political aspects of the Somali crisis. The major emphasis was on the most immediate and acute human aspect of the crisis with an attempt to lay the groundwork for a lasting political solution in the country.

The Somali organizations attending the meeting unanimously agreed to cooperate in creating an atmosphere of peace for the free distribution of relief supplies to reach all needy Somalis throughout Somalia. They agreed to a total cease-fire and the mechanism for its observation. In addition, they agreed to ensure that all ports, airports, and land routes and distribution centres be open for the movement and distribution of relief supplies. They pledged to ensure the security of relief personnel and observers. This is a major achievement that calls for the support of all those concerned with the plight of the Somali people.

The issue of finding a lasting political solution in Somalia has been the concern of both Somalia and friends of Somalia for quite some time now. Unfortunately, however, no such solution has as yet been achieved. The Bahir Dar All-Party Meeting addressed this fundamental issue and reached a consensus that:

1. All Somali parties, the Somali people at large and all countries concerned for Somalia should do their utmost to make the cease-fire agreement reached at this meeting a success;

2. A high-level All-Party Somali National Reconciliation Conference be held within the next three months hosted by the Standing Committee of the Horn on Somalia and attended by observers;

3. An Interim Government will be established in the Conference mentioned above that would:

(a) Ensure peace and security in the country;

(b) Secure the provision of the material needs and safeguard the human and political rights of the people;

(c) Lay the groundwork for the reconstruction of the country;

(d) Guarantee protection and security to the relief supplies and personnel.

4. The Interim Government so established paves the way to the formation of a democratically elected government.

5. As an immediate measure all Somali organizations agree to send a joint Somali delegation to attend the forthcoming Conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at Dakar to represent Somalia and to inform the Standing Committee of the Horn the formation of such a delegation well in advance of the fifty-sixth session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, to be held from 21 to 27 June 1992.

All the organizations participating in the Bahir Dar Meeting as well as members of the Standing Committee on the Horn call upon the Somali people, the Somali organizations not present at this meeting and all friends of Somalia to support the above declaration and work for its success.

Adopted by

1. United Somali Party (USP)

2. Somali National Front (SNF)

3. Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM)

4. United Somali Congress (USC)

5. Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF)

6. Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA)

7. Somali National Democratic Union (SNDU)

8. Somali Intellectuals for Peace and Democracy (SIPD)

9. Somali Peace and Resettlement Organization (SOPRO)

10. Somali Relief Society (SRS)

3 June 1992
Bahir Dar

ALL-PARTY MEETING ON THE SOMALI HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

THE BAHIR DAR AGREEMENT

Subsequent to the Summit of Heads of States and Governments of the Horn of Africa which took place at Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) on 8 and 9 April 1992, the Standing Committee on Somalia convened the first All-Party Meeting on Somalia. The meeting was officially opened by H.E. Ato Meles Zenawi, President of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia. In his opening statement, President Meles Zenawi made a passionate appeal to all parties involved in the conflict to join hands to end the senseless civil war that has resulted in the plight of the Somali people; he further emphasized on the need of promptly addressing the humanitarian aspect of the Somali problem.

The meeting was attended by the following Somali organizations:

1. United Somali Party (USP)

2. Somali National Movement (SNM)

3. Somali Democratic Alliance (SDA)

4. United Somali Congress (USC)

5. Somali National Front (SNF)

6. Somali National Democratic Union (SNDU)

7. Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM)

8. Somali Salvation Democratic Front (SSDF)

9. Somali Peace and Resettlement Organization (SOPRO)

10. Somali Relief Society (SRS)

11. Somali Intellectuals for Peace and Democracy (SIPD)

After lengthy discussions and examining in depth the different dimensions of the problem, all parties agree on the following:

1. Humanitarian assistance particularly food, medicine and other necessities should reach indiscriminately to all the regions.

2. All parties unanimously agree that all seaports, airports and land routes be utilized under the firm guarantee, protection and responsibility of each organization (in the area under their control) for the safe passage and security of the personnel and property in reaching its destinations.

3. The fair distribution of the supplies should be under the responsibility of the indigenous and international NGO personnel and the competent concerned parties.

4. All parties agree to observe an immediate cease-fire and to request the Standing Committee of the Horn of Africa to send an observing civilian team, which includes the United Nations and other international organizations, for the cease-fire and the distribution of aid supplies under the protection and cooperation of each organization.

5. All parties agree that the following routes and distribution centres could be utilized by the relief agencies:

(a) Major seaports - Kismayo, Mogadishu, Bossaso and Berbera;

(b) Minor seaports - Kudha, Baravo, Merka, Adale, Warshekh, Eldher, Hobio, Gar-adag, Eil, Alula, Laskorey, Elayo-Maid, Heis, Lughaya and Zeila;

(c) Main airports - Kismayo, Mogadishu, Baidhabo, Beli-doogle, Beledwein, Galkayo, Garowe, Bassaso, Laskargy, Erigabo, Lasanod, Burao, Berbera, Hargeisa and Borama;

(d) Airstrips - Gilib, Afmadow, Shalambod, Afgoye, Lug, Bur-Dhubo, Bar-dheere, Jalalagsi, Hudur, Hobio, Gardo, Iskushuban, Alula, Bendar-Beila, Lascoray, Beran, Hadaftimo, Yube, Erigabo, Eil-Aftein, Garadag, Salahlery and Jihi, Taleh, Buhudleh, Boron;

(e) Main land paved routes:

Mogadishu - Kismayo
Mogadishu - Baidhabo
Mogadishu - Garowe/Bossaso
Garowe - Burao
Burao - Berbera
Berbera - Hargeisa
Hargeisa - Barama

There are also other unpaved land routes which connects different parts of the country;

(f) Distribution centres - Ample distribution centres which were owned by agricultural development agency exists in all the regions of Somalia. However, owing to the civil war, a large number of them would need minor or major maintenance and rehabilitation in order to be effectively utilized. It is therefore our recommendation that the aid donor organizations take into consideration the need to reconstruct existing distribution centres.

6. All parties appeal to the international organizations, donor countries, non-governmental organizations and relief agencies to accelerate and dispatch sufficient aid to the already starving population in all the affected areas.

7. All parties apeal to the other organizations that have not been able to attend to endorse and abide by this agreement.

8. This agreement shall be effective as of today, 2 June 1992.

2 June 1992, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

(Signed) 1. Ali Haji HERSI (SDA) (Signed) 2. Hassen Ali MIRREH (SSDF)

(Signed) 3. Awad Ahmed ASHAREH (USP) (Signed) 4. A. Mohammed F. JUMALE (USC)

(Signed) 5. Hassen Omer HORRI (SOPRO) (Signed) B. Abudulatif M. AFDUB (SPM)
For SDM and SSNM

(Signed) 6. Musa Ahmed SAHAR (SNM) (Signed) 7. Ali Ismail ABDIGER (SNDU)

(Signed) 8. Adam Mussa JIBRIL (SIPID) (Signed) 9. Abdi Shire FARAH (SRS)

(Signed) 10. Mohammed Khalif SHIRE (SNF)

After having considered all aspects of the tragic situation of Somalia the All-Party Meeting on Somalia has come to the following consensus to send a joint non-party delegation to represent the interest of Somalia Nation at the OAU summit Conference at Dakar. The participants of the Bahir Dar Meeting from different Somali Organizations have unanimously nominated the following delegation:

1. Ali Haji Hersi
2. Mohamed Farah Gumale
3. Abdulatif M. Afdhoub
4. Yusuf Omar Al-Azhari
5. Awad A. Ashareh

The Bahir Dar All Somali Party Meeting has also decided to allocate two participants from the other Somali Organization who were not able to attend this conference.

(Signed) 1. Ali Haji HERSI (SDA)

(Signed) 2. Hassen Ali MIRREH (SSDF)

(Signed) 3. Awad Ahmed ASHAREH (USP)

(Signed) 4. A. Mohammed F. JUMALE (USC)

(Signed) B. Abudulatif M. AFDUB (SPM)

For SDM and SSNM

(Signed) 5. Hassen Omer HORRI (SOPRO)

(Signed) 6. Ali Ismail ABDIGER (SNDU)

(Signed) 7. Adam Mussa JIBRIL (SIPID)

(Signed) 8. Abdi Shire FARAH (SRS)

(Signed) 9. Mohammed Khalif SHIRE (SNF)

4 June 1992
Bahir Dar